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# UN human rights bid to halt gypsy eviction

By NEIL MILLARD

Published: 08 Aug 2011

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**GYPSIES may dodge eviction from a giant travellers' camp - after the UN claimed it could breach human rights laws.**

Officials from the United Nations have waded into the row over scores of families blighting a UK site.

A total of 300 travellers have been given until the end of the month to quit the Dale Farm site at Crays Hill, near Basildon, Essex, for breaking planning rules. But the £9½million eviction could be in disarray after the UN insisted they deserve compensation.

UN housing official Raquel Rolnik called on the Government to delay the operation to kick the gypsies out, saying: "Evictions constitute a grave breach of human rights if not carried out with full respect for international standards."

"It is of utmost importance that the rights of the residents to fair compensation for their lost homes and the provision of adequate alternative housing are respected."

The former scrapyard currently has 100 pitches but only 49 have planning permission. Travellers have been on the site for ten years. They have been blamed for Crays Hill's primary school being named the the worst-performing in the country in 2009.

Candy Sheridan, of the Gypsy Council, claimed the decision to evict the families was "based on racism". The Government said Basildon Council was within its rights to throw them out.

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Defiance ... gypsy site

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